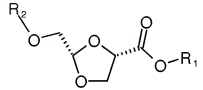
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A process for producing a compound of formula I:



I

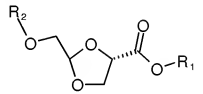
wherein

R_1 is C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, C_{6-12} aryl, C_{3-10} heterocycle, C_{6-12} aralkyl or C_{3-10} heteroaralkyl, and

R_2 is a hydroxyl protecting group;

said process comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) subjecting a compound ~~compounds~~ of formula II:



II

to an enzymatic diastereomeric resolution in the presence of a suitable amount of ~~enzyme chosen from~~ Pig Liver Esterase enzyme or Porcine Pancreatic Lipase enzyme;

b) recovering said compound of formula I

~~wherein:~~

~~R_1 is chosen from C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, C_{6-12} aryl, C_{3-10} heterocycle, C_{6-12} aralkyl or C_{3-10} heteroaralkyl; and~~

~~R_2 is a hydroxyl protecting group~~.

2. (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is C_{1-12} alkyl.

3. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 wherein R_2 is ~~chosen from:~~ CO-C_{1-6} alkyl, CO-C_{6-12} aryl, CO-C_{1-6} alkoxy, CO-C_{6-12} aryloxy, or CO-C_{6-12} arylalkyl.

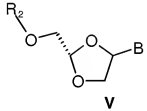
4. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein R_2 is CO-C_{6-12} aryl.

5. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme is Pig Liver Esterase.

6. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme is Porcine Pancreatic Lipase.

7. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

a) replacing the functional group at position C4 of the compound of formula I to produce a compound of formula V:

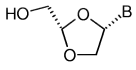


V

wherein B is purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue thereof;

b) removing the group R_2 of said compound of formula V;

c) recovering a compound of formula VI:



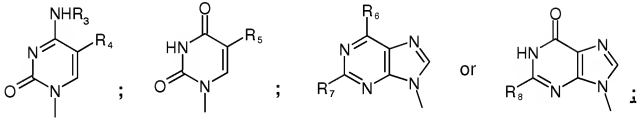
VI

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~;~~

~~wherein;~~

~~B is purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue thereof~~.

8. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 7, wherein B is ~~chosen from~~:



~~wherein;~~

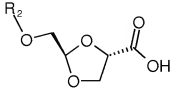
R_3 is ~~chosen from~~ H, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ acyl, or ~~and~~ CO-R_9; ~~wherein~~

R_9 is H or $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl;

R_4 and R_5 are each independently ~~chosen from~~ H, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide or CF_3; and

R_6, R_7 and R_8 are each independently ~~chosen from~~ H, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide, amino, hydroxyl, or $C_{3\text{-}6}$ cycloalkylamino.

9. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, further comprising the step of recovering a compound of formula VII:

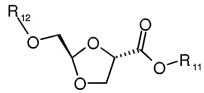


VII

10. (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is C_{1-12} alkyl and R_2 is CO-C_{6-12} aryl.

11. (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is methyl and R_2 is benzoyl.

12. (Currently Amended): A process for producing a compound of formula III:



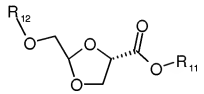
III

wherein

R_{11} is C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, C_{6-12} aryl, C_{3-10} heterocycle, C_{6-12} aralkyl or C_{3-10} heteroaralkyl; and R_{12} is a hydroxyl protecting group,

said process comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) subjecting a compound ~~compounds~~ of formula IV:



IV

to an enzymatic diastereomeric resolution in the presence of a suitable amount of enzyme, wherein said enzyme is ~~chosen from~~ Candida Antarctica "A" lipase, Candida Antarctica "B" lipase, Candida Lypolitica Lipase, or Rhizomucor Miehei Lipase; and

b) recovering said compound of formula III;

~~wherein: R_{11} is chosen from C.sub.1-12 alkyl, C.sub.2-12 alkenyl, C.sub.2-12 alkynyl,~~

~~C.sub.6-12 aryl, C.sub.3-10 heterocycle, C.sub.6-12 aralkyl or C.sub.3-10 heteroaralkyl; and R_{12} is a hydroxyl protecting group~~.

13. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein R_{11} is C_{1-12} alkyl.

14. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 12, wherein R_{12} is ~~chosen from:~~ CO-C_{1-6} alkyl, CO-C_{6-12} aryl, CO-C_{1-6} alkoxy, CO-C_{6-12} aryloxy, or CO-C_{6-12} arylalkyl.

15. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein R_{12} is CO-C_{6-12} aryl.

16. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Candida Antarctica "A" lipase.

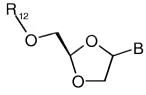
17. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Candida Antarctica "B" lipase.

18. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Candida Lypolitica Lipase.

19. (Original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the enzyme is Rhizomucor Miehei Lipase.

20. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 12, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) replacing the functional group at position C4 of the compound of formula III to produce a compound of formula VIII:

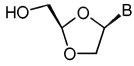


VIII

wherein B is purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue thereof;

b) removing ~~the~~ group R_{12} of said compound of formula VIII;

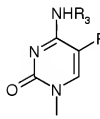
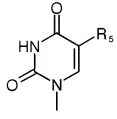
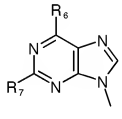
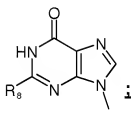
c) recovering a compound of formula IX:



IX

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~; wherein; B is purine or pyrimidine base or an analogue thereof~~.

21. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 20, wherein B is ~~chosen from:~~

 ;  ;  or  ;

~~wherein;~~

R_3 is ~~chosen from~~ H, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ acyl and CO-R_9; ~~wherein~~

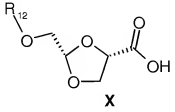
R_9 is H or $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl;

R_4 and R_5 are each independently ~~chosen from~~ H, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide or CF_3; and

R_6, R_7 and R_8 are each independently ~~chosen from~~ H, bromide, chloride, fluoride, iodide, amino,

hydroxyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkylamino.

22. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1226, further comprising ~~the step of~~ converting said compound of formula III to a compound of formula IV and recovering ~~a~~said compound of formula X:



X

23. (Original): A process according to claim 12, wherein R_{11} is C_{1-12} alkyl and R_{12} is CO-C_{6-12} aryl.

24. (Original): A process according to claim 12, wherein R_{11} is methyl and R_{12} is benzoyl.